

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1        1.     A method of keeping a refreshed image from a camera on a user's  
2 system, the method comprising:  
3            sending the image to the user's system;  
4            refreshing the image when a refresh period has elapsed; and  
5            after a period of time, decreasing a frequency of the refresh.

1        2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the frequency of the refresh is  
2 decreased along an exponential curve.

1        3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the refreshes are stopped after a  
2 period of time has elapsed.

1        4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2            determining if it is time to decrease the frequency of the refresh; and  
3            if it is time to decrease the frequency of the refresh, decrease the frequency  
4            of the refresh.

1        5.     The method of claim 4, wherein determining if it is time to decrease  
2 the frequency of the refresh comprises determining that a set time has elapsed.

1        6.     The method of claim 4, wherein determining if it is time to decrease  
2 the frequency of the refresh comprises determining that a window displaying the  
3 image is not visible to the user.

1        7.     The method of claim 1, wherein the determination whether to

2 decrease the frequency of the refresh is periodically evaluated.

1           8.       The method of claim 7, wherein a period to evaluate the  
2 determination whether to decrease the frequency of the refresh is greater than  
3 the refresh period of the image.

1           9.       The method of claim 7, wherein the determination whether to  
2 decrease the frequency of the refresh occurs concurrently with a refresh cycle.

1           10.      The method of claim 7, wherein the determination whether to  
2 decrease the frequency of the refresh is made when a timer reaches a preset  
3 value.

1           11.      The method of claim 7, wherein a determination whether it is time  
2 to decrease the frequency of the refresh is made when a counter reaches a preset  
3 value.

1           12.      An apparatus to keep a refreshed image from a camera on a  
2 user's system, the apparatus comprising:  
3           a network connection to send the image to the user's system;  
4           a refresh logic to refresh the image when a refresh period has elapsed; and  
5           a refresh rate logic to determine whether the refresh period should be  
6 changed, and if to increase the refresh period.

1           13.      The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the frequency of the refresh is  
2 decreased along an exponential curve.

1           14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the refresh period is set to  
2 infinity after a period of time has elapsed, to stop refreshing the image.

1           15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the refresh rate logic includes a  
2 timer, the refresh rate monitor to determine that it is time to decrease the  
3 frequency of the refresh when a time set by the timer is elapsed.

1           16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the refresh rate logic includes  
2 an activity monitor, the activity monitor to determine that if it is time to decrease  
3 the frequency of the refresh comprises when a window displaying the image is  
4 not visible to the user.

1           17. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the refresh rate logic is further  
2 to periodically evaluate whether to decrease the frequency of the refresh.

1           18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the determination whether to  
2 decrease the frequency of the refresh occurs concurrently with a refresh cycle.